ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH

LIBERTY CHURCH,

SEPTEMBER 29TH, 30TH AND OCTOBER 1ST, A. D., 1899.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

J. B. FRANKLIN, - - - - - - - - - - - - Moderator.
H. T. GRAVES, - - - - - - - - - - - - - Clerk.

1899,
FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA.
DEKALB TIMES PRINT.

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THE CAUSE OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Which was constituted in 1836, and declared to be a Primitive Baptist Association in 1840. Her resolutions were as follows:

ARTICLE 26. That this Association will not fellowship any church or churches, nor hold them in union, who are engaged in supporting any Missionary, Bible, Tract, or Sunday School Union Societies, or advocate State conventions or Theological Schools, or Secret Institutions, or any other society that has been, or may hereafter be founded, under the pretense of circulating the Gospel of Jesus Christ; nor correspond with any Association engaged, or supporting any of the above named institutions, they being without a "thus saith the Lord" for them.

In 1848 there was a query brought into the Association by one of the churches, as follows: How shall we receive those who have gone off with the Missionary Baptists? Answer—By Recantation. Secondly—How shall we receive those who have been received by Missionaries since our separation from them? Answer—In the good old way, by experience and baptism.

From which resolutions and practice there has been a departure, the churches receiving members from other Baptists on what they call confession of faith without baptizing them, and some of the churches being unwilling to renounce the practice, and to return to former principles, caused a division of the Association.

Therefore we, a portion of the churches of the said Association, being unwilling to conform to the practice in which she has fallen, believing it to be unscriptural, and not according to primitive practice. Therefore, deeming it necessary to re-organize the Wills Creek Association upon former faith and practice, met with the church at Macedonia, Jackson county, Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1880, at which time and place the Association was organized by the election of Elder J. P. Franklin, Moderator; T. M. K. Galloway, Clerk; and after transacting the business necessary to come before the body, adjourned to meet with the church at Black Oak, Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1880.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH LIBERTY CHURCH, SEPTEMBER 20th, 30th AND OCTOBER 1st, A. D., 1899.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1899.

1. Elder Jas. B. Franklin came forward and preached the Introductory Sermon from the following text: The latter part of the 45th verse of the second chapter of Daniel: "The dream is certain and the interpretation thereof sure."

2. Intermission of thirty minutes, after which prayer by Elder A. Graves.

3. Called for the letters of the several churches, which were read and received, and the names of the delegates recorded, except Antioch and Shoal Creek, whose letters were tabled. (See table.)

4. Called for churches desiring admission into our body. Received Union church, Jackson county, Ala.

5. The Association then organized by electing Elder Jas. B. Franklin Moderator and H. T. Graves Clerk.

6. Invited ministers and brethren of our faith and practice to seats with us.

7. Appointed a committee to arrange the programme for preaching during our meeting, to-wit: Jno. Stallings, S. H. King, A. R. Pendergrass, together with the delegates from Liberty church.

8. Appointed a committee to arrange the business to come before the Association, to-wit: J. M. Stafford, R. Wilks, Sr., John Meadows, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

9. Appointed a Committee on Finance, to-wit: H. H. Nichols and J. S. Peek.

10. Called for correspondence.

11. By motion the Association adjourned to meet Saturday morning at 9 a. m.

SECOND DAY—SATURDAY MORNING.

1. The Association met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. T. Perry.

2. Called the roll.

3. Called for the report of Committee on Arrangements. Report received and committee discharged.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS.

We, the Committee, agree to adopt the regular order of business, and recommend that a committee of three from each church in the Second District

be appointed to visit Black Oak, Shoal Creek and Antioch churches and make a thorough investigation of the troubles and settle them and report the same at the next Association.

4. Called for the reading of the Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

5. Invited ministers and brethren of our faith and practice to seats with us.

6. Agreed that the union meeting of the First District be held with New Bethel church, two miles east of Collinsville, convening on Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1900. Also, that the Union meeting of the Second District be held with Union church in Walker county, Ga., two and one-half miles northeast of Lafayette, Ga., convening on Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1900.

7. Agreed that our next Association be held with Mt. Pleasant church, eight miles southwest of Collinsville, Ala., DeKalb county, convening on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1900.

8. Called for the report of Committee on Finance. The Committee reported $11.90 contributed for Minutes.

9. Elected Elder J. T. Perry to preach the next Introductory Sermon; Elder A. Graves alternate.

10. Moved and carried that Union church, Jackson county, be joined to Second District.

11. Agreed that the Moderator appoint a committee of three from each church in the Second District, together with the Moderator and Clerk, to visit Black Oak on Saturday before the second Sunday in December, 1900; Shoal Creek on Monday after the second Sunday in December, 1900; Antioch on Wednesday after second Sunday in December, 1900. The names of the Committee are as follows: From Macedonia, John Scott, Press Coger, John Stallings; from Corinth, R. Wilks, Sr., J. E. Phillips, J. J. Lambert; from Mt. Zion, E. B. Thomas, J. S. Peek, J. E. Turner; from Red Hill, A. R. Pendergrass, L. H. Peek, J. P. Morgan; from Liberty, P. H. Thomas, R. J. Wilks, E. W. Lacy; from Union, Ala., T. E. Haynes, Jas. Peek, S. H. King; from Union, Ga., Wiley Schogin, Calvin Wheeler, Alfred Jones.

12. Agreed that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and that we have six hundred copies struck, and that he may have the balance of contribution, if any, for his services.

13. We tender the people of Liberty church and vicinity our sincere thanks for their kind hospitality shown us durimg our meeting.

14. The Association then closed in order to meet at the time and place appointed.

JAS. B. FRANKLIN, Moderator.

H. T. GRAVES, Clerk.

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

OF THE WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. We believe in only one true and living God—the Father, Word and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is not able by his own free will and ability to recover himself therefrom.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ imputed to them.

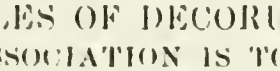
5. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace in Christ, and that God, according to His own foreknowledge, purpose and grace, chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world, through sanctification of the Holy Spirit and belief of the truth.

6. We believe the saints will persevere in and be preserved by grace and never finally fall away nor be lost.

7. We believe that baptism and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet are ordinances of divine worship; and the proper legal communicants, persons born of the Spirit and baptized by a legal administrator, and the true scriptural mode of performance is to bury the body all over in water, and that true believers are the only fit subjects.

8. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinance of the Gospel only such as are legally baptized, called and ordained by laying on of hands and prayer by a Presbytery.

9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, general judgment, that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.



RULES OF DECORUM

BY WHICH THE ASSOCIATION IS TO BE GOVERNED.

1. The members regularly chosen by the churches shall compose the Association.

2. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the state of the churches since their last representation.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

4. The Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, chosen by the suffrages of the members present by ballot, and the person to preach the Introductory sermon.

5. Any church belonging to the Association shall be entitled to three representatives and no more.

6. Any church desiring admittance to the Association shall petition by letter and delegates, and being found orthodox, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

7. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to infringe upon any internal rights of the church.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be put to a vote unless withdrawn by the one that made it, and a majority in all cases decide.

9. Every member who speaks in debate shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

10. The appellation of Brother or Brethren shall be used in all our addresses to each other.

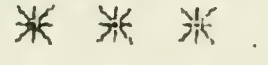
11. No member shall be permitted to speak more than three times in debate on any subject without leave from the Association.

12. No query shall be taken under consideration by the Association, except where serious cases of difficulty are likely to arise, and cannot be settled by the church, nor by the help of any other churches which she may call upon; then if not settled, she may send it to the Association.

13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without the leave of the Association.

14. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises.

15. Any amendment or alteration may be made to these rules as to the form of government at any time when a majority of the members of the Association deem it expedient.



STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	MINISTERS.	POSTOFFICE.	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Excluded	Dead.	Total	Contributions.	Sab'th of meet'g
1st District—												
Antioch	Both letters tabled	J, S. Massey*	Aroney, Ala							24	1 00	3
Black Oak	Albert Rains, Newt Rains, Thos. Rains.		Grove Oak	7						16	50	1
Mt. Pleasant	A. Graves, H. T. Graves.	A. Graves*	Collinsville						1	42	1 00	2
New Bethel	Jno. Meadows, J. M. Meadows	J. M. Meadows, J. P. Meadows*	Collinsville		1				1	13	50	2
Little Creek	Not represented		Seaborn							13		1
Pine Grove	Wm. Oliver, Thos. Broyles, Miles Oliver.	J Mitchel. J Bone*, W Oliver*, M Oliver	Collinsville.						1	34	1 00	4
Shoal Creek	Both letters tabled	J A Harrison*, W S Dody	Whiton							51	1 25	4
2d District—												
Corinth	R, Wilks, H. H. Nichols, J. W. Thurman	J E Phillips	Guest				2			65	1 00	1
Mt. Zion	J. Peek, J. M. Stafford, J. Pendergrass.		Lebanon	7		2			1	56	1 50	2
Macedonia	J. Scott, J. M. Prichet, Jno. Stallings.	J M Prichet	Ider.	11	1			1		127	1 50	3
Red Hill	J B Franklin, L H Peek, A R Pendergrass	J B Franklin*	Larimore	2					1	39	1 50	3
Liberty	J. T. Perry, E W. Lacy, P. H, Thomas.	J T Perry*	Henegar							28	65	3
Union, Ga.	Not :epresented.		New, Ga							15		
Union, Ala	Jas. Peek, S. H. King, T. C. Haynes		Section, Ala	3	15					18	50	
			Total	30	17	2	2	1	5	541	$11 90	

Ordained ministers marked thus*